

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

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R 292345Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6476

UNCLAS MEXICO 9747

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX (FRONCZAK, SANDRA)

SUBJ: W/W: SANDRA FRONCZAK

REF: STATE 181879

1. FOLLOWING ARE PARTIAL RESPONSES TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS
RAISED REFTEL. MORE COMPLETE REPLY AND DISCUSSION OF
ALTERNATIVES WILL BE PREPARED FOLLOWING FORTHCOMING CALL
ON GOVERNOR OF GUERRERO BY CCS CHIEF:

A. CONCERNING SEARCH FOR FOUR CIVILIAN SUSPECTS, STATE
ATTORNEY GENERAL INDICATED AT ONE POINT THAT A SEARCH
TEAM HAD BEEN ORGANIZED, BUT WE DO NOT KNOW AT WHAT
LEVEL EFFORTS ARE BEING CONDUCTED NOW. AG REMAINS IN
CHARGE OF INVESTIGATION AND SEARCH. WE ARE SEEKING
FURTHER DETAILS FROM AG.

B. AG HAS INFORMED US THAT AUTHORITIES HAVE DISCONTINUED
SEARCH FOR SANDRA FRONCZAK'S BODY. THEY ARE NOW
CONVINCED THAT IT WAS DUMPED AT SEA AND WILL NEVER
BE FOUND. WE DO NOT THINK THERE IS AT PRESENT
ANY ONGOING ACTIVITY, SUCH AS CIRCULATING POSTERS
OR FLYERS BEARING HER PHOTOGRAPH, TO EXTEND OR
CONTINUE SEARCH. HOWEVER, WE WILL DISCUSS POSSIBILITY
OF ADDITIONAL EFFORTS WITH GOVERNOR AND ATTORNEY
GENERAL.

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C. (1) EMBASSY HAS CONTACTED STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

TWICE WEEKLY BY TELEPHONE TO OBTAIN STATUS REPORT ON CASE. IN ADDITION, CONOFFS HAVE VISITED ACAPULCO SIX TIMES IN PAST TWO MONTHS, MOST RECENT VISIT JULY 23-24 REPORTED MEXICO 9539. CONTACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL REQUIRES MANY TELEPHONE CALLS, BUT HE IS USUALLY COOPERATIVE IN DISCUSSING CASE. NO OTHER OFFICIAL, EXCEPT RARELY HIS DEPUTY, WILL GIVE ANY INFORMATION ON CASE. EMBASSY HAS ALSO FROM TIME TO TIME CHECKED INTO STATUS OF CASE THROUGH OTHER OFFICIAL SOURCE, BUT INFORMATION THUS OBTAINED HAS TALLIED WITH THAT SUPPLIED BY STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL. MOST RECENT CHECK, WITH POLICE CONTACTS AT FEDERAL LEVEL JULY 22, REVEALED THAT CASE IS CONSIDERED SOLVED, MRS. FRONCZAK IS BELIEVED DEAD, AND THE TWO PRINCIPAL SUSPECTS IN CUSTODY. (2) IF NECESSARY AND USEFUL, EMBASSY COULD SEND CONOFF TO ACAPULCO/CHIPLANCINGO WEEKLY ON FRONCZAK CASE, ALTHOUGH AT CONSIDERABLE SACRIFICE IN TERMS OF OTHER PRIORITY WORK NEGLECTED. THE PROBLEM IS THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS CASE SINCE ABOUT JUNE 30, AND WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT CONOFF VISITS TO ACAPULCO, HOWEVER FREQUENT, WILL PAY OFF IN TERMS OF NEW AND ACCURATE INFORMATION. FROM CONTACTS IN ACAPULCO NOT CONNECTED WITH INVESTIGATION, CONOFFS CAN ALWAYS COLLECT LATEST RUMORS, BUT WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT HELPFUL TO PASS UNCONFIRMED RUMORS ON TO THE FAMILY. WEEKLY OR TWICE WEEKLY IONFACTS BY TELEPHONE WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL, SUPPLEMENTED BY REGULAR CONOFF VISITS TO DISCUSS CASE IN MORE DETAIL, WILL BE MORE EFFECTIVE IN FOLLOWING PROGRESS OF CASE. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT THIS CASE HAS REACHED THE STAGE IN WHICH NEW DEVELOPMENTS ARE LIKELY TO BE RARE.

2. EMBASSY IS PRESENTLY RENEWING ITS EFFORT TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF SENIOR MEXICAN OFFICIALS THE DEPTH OF INTEREST AROUSED IN THIS CASE IN U.S., AND THE POTENTIALLY SERIOUS EFFECT UPON MEXICAN TOURIST INDUSTRY, OF THE PUBLICITY IT HAS RECEIVED AND MAY CONTINUE TO

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RECEIVE. THESE APPROACHES WILL BE REPORTED IN REGULAR CABLES UPDATING PREVIOUS CHRONOLOGY OF EMBASSY ACTIONS (MEXICO 9377). MORE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WILL BE REPORTED INDIVIDUALLY.
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